

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in congratulating Fairbanks Company on 120 years of industry in the Floyd County community.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

IRAQ WAR SUPPLEMENTAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking Speaker PELOSI and Chairman OBEY for bringing the conference report for the Iraq supplemental to the floor. You have shown tremendous leadership in the face of great opposition and criticism.

To my colleagues who joined me in passing this legislation, we have demonstrated to our constituents that we are listening to their mandate.

Five weeks ago, we commemorated the fourth year of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Today, we move with urgency to end 4 years of bloodshed that has resulted in the death of 3,300 men and women in uniform deployed in Iraq, 59 of those being sons and daughters of the great State of Maryland.

While I opposed the war from the very beginning, I believe we have a duty to redeploy in a responsible manner that protects the Iraqi people and our troops.

Additionally, we have a responsibility to our courageous men and women in uniform, their families, and the American people by putting an end to their incredible sacrifices.

Despite the rhetoric, the President's plan is simply not working. According to a Washington Post report dated April 4, 2007, the number of Iraqi policemen killed across Iraq nearly doubled from 171 in February to 331 in March.

Meanwhile, the numbers of unidentified bodies found across Baghdad are rising again, suggesting an increase in sectarian-motivated death squad killings. Surely, this is not a sign of us winning the war in Iraq; but instead, it is a sign of how the conflict is swiftly tumbling into a civil war that is on the edge of becoming a battle beyond our control.

As Members of Congress, it is our duty to bring President Bush back to reality. Progress in Iraq will not be measured in military terms. The primary solution to many of the crises in Iraq are simply political, in that obtaining bilateral assistance from Iraq's neighbors, the international community and the Iraqis themselves, is a vital step to resolving many of the present conflicts.

Unfortunately, the President views the situation quite differently. Rather than attempting to reach compromise, he has threatened to use his veto power. In doing so, he will be rejecting the benchmarks for Iraq that he himself has repeatedly stated must be reached to resolve this crisis. The President will also be vetoing so much more.

The supplemental provides troops with three things they need to be successful: Training, equipment and rest.

Further, as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I am particularly proud that \$3 billion is provided for the purchase of mine resistant, ambush protected vehicles.

The President should take note that he will be vetoing accountability requirements in the area of homeland security. To that end, the supplemental makes important changes to the Coast Guard's \$24 billion, 25-year Deepwater contract to prevent the development of assets that simply do not work.

Further, the supplemental will require the Coast Guard to identify both the staffing structure it needs to manage Deepwater, and the training that acquisitions oversight staff will require to be effective.

Having chaired two oversight hearings involving Deepwater, and having worked with Chairman OBERSTAR, chairman of the full committee, to conduct an investigative hearing into Deepwater, I know that the significant problems that have been experienced with this contract have arisen at least in part due to the decision of the Coast Guard to move forward with the program before they had the staff, expertise, and management systems in place to ensure effective oversight.

Finally, I strongly support these provisions and look forward to building on them in the Coast Guard reauthorization which we are drafting. If this supplemental is not signed and if we fail to override the veto, we will start from scratch, forcing us back to the drawing board. However, I will not give up or give in. It is time to bring our troops home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House regarding rollcall No. 265.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I simply want to note for the RECORD that I had voted previously for the supplemental measure, and that if I had been here at the time, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 265. It is consistent with my previous vote on this measure. While this measure is imperfect, I think on balance it provides the benchmarks the President has recommended. It also provides disaster relief that I think is necessary for many areas of the country that have experienced disaster that the President has so designated in his own message, and I want

the RECORD to note that I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 265.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

INTERVENTIONIST FOREIGN POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, no country has ever done as much for another country as the United States has done for Iraq. We have spent hundreds of billions rebuilding their infrastructure, providing police protection, building hospitals and clinics, schools, and water and power plants, giving free medical care, hiring hundreds of thousands of Iraqis and on and on. All of this in a country that had a total GDP of only \$65 billion the year before the war was started.

In spite of all this generosity, a huge majority of Iraqis, 78 to 80 percent by almost every poll, wants us to leave. They want our money, of course, but not our presence, except those who are working for us. But there needs to be some limit to our generosity.

We need to start putting our own people first. If we do not, we are soon not going to be able to pay all the Social Security and military pensions, and all the other things we have promised our own people with money that will buy very much.

Governments all over the world have gotten in this situation. They then start printing more money, and people do not realize what is going on. All they see is each year their pensions buy less than the year before.

Today we have a national debt approaching \$9 trillion. Even worse, according to the GAO, we have unfunded future pension liabilities of \$50 trillion.

We all love and respect our military, but there is waste in any gigantic bureaucracy, and there is huge waste even in the military. A year and a half ago, it was reported by the Defense Department's own inspector general that \$35 billion had been misspent in Iraq due to waste, fraud and abuse, and another \$9 billion had simply been lost and could not be accounted for at all.

Not only has the U.S. done more for Iraq, we do more for every other country, by far, than does any other Nation. Almost every Federal department and agency has operations around the world.

Liberals will tell you that our foreign aid is only a little over 1 percent of our budget. This is very misleading. We are spending megabillions in other countries when you add up not only the Defense Department but all the other departments' spending, too.

We all love and appreciate our country, but all of this spending is not helping. There is more resentment than ever toward the U.S. because of our interventionist foreign policies.

President Bush campaigned in 2000, saying that we needed a more humble foreign policy, and that we should not be doing nation-building. Interventionist foreign policies and nation-building are not only causing resentment toward us, but we simply cannot afford them if we are going to pay our Social Security and other promises a few years from now. You can still love this country and be a very patriotic American and oppose interventionist foreign policies.

We cannot afford perpetual war just because defense contractors and people at the top levels of the Pentagon always want more and more money. All of this is stated more articulately by two conservative writers, Jacob Hornberger, president of the Future of Freedom Foundation, and Richard Ebeling of the Foundation for Economic Education.

Mr. Hornberger wrote: "If Americans come to realize that the Federal Government's philosophy on foreign aid, foreign intervention and empire lies at the heart of foreign anger, resentment, and hatred for America, then they will see that another option is available to them: End the motivation for terrorism by putting an end to the U.S. Government's role as international welfare provider, intervenor, and meddler.

"The interventionist and imperial vision will inevitably lead to more terrorism against Americans, less freedom for the American people, and more power for the Federal Government. It is a vision that will inevitably lead us away from the principles on which our Nation was founded."

He continued, "The contrary vision, a vision based on liberty, free markets and limited government, is the key to peace, prosperity and harmony for the American people. That vision entails ending the U.S. Government's interventionist and imperial role in the world and limiting it to protecting our Nation from attack or invasion."

Mr. Ebeling wrote: "Two wrongs do not make a right. That America does things abroad it should not is not an excuse or rationale for what happened on September 11. But the United States will continue to create desperate and fanatical men who will view it as the enemy for as long as it interferes into the affairs of other people in other nations. That means there is no end to this 'war on terrorism' as long as the United States follows the foreign policy" of recent years. "Ending U.S. foreign political and military interventionism is the only way to reduce the creation of enemies of America in other lands."

He continues, "Ending the policy of foreign interventionism is also crucial to protecting our freedoms at home.

"Who will guard us from the guardians is the perennial dilemma. When the crisis has passed there will be new government agencies and bureaus with new government employees who will look around for new justifications and rationales to keep their jobs and expand their budgets. They will have powers to intrude into our lives that they will want to use in ways not originally intended. And even more of our freedoms will then be at risk."

IT IS TIME FOR THE PRESIDENT TO STOP TALKING AND START LISTENING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the bill we just passed has the weight of a feather. It is very weak on setting a date to get our soldiers out of Iraq. If anything, this legislation bends in the wind as a sign of flexibility by the Democratic Congress to work with the President.

And yet a piece of legislation so inherently weak has provoked so many attacks from the White House that its real value may be proving to the American people that the President is out of touch and out of control.

The President's military escalation has only escalated the body count, but he claims we are making progress. Mr. Speaker, tell the President we are not making progress. We are making widows and widowers. The bloody awful war must end now, but the President is in total denial.

How many more must die before this President opens his eyes to reality? We are not seeding democracy. We are spilling blood into the soil, and what is growing is hatred for America, contempt for the President's military occupation and the killing and maiming of America's next generation.

What will the President say to the 82nd Airborne when his rationale for continuing this war is irrational? This heroic, distinguished unit of American soldiers has suffered its worst single day of casualties since the Vietnam War.

Mr. Speaker, what will the President say; we are winning? There will be bad days in Iraq? We are making progress? Mr. Speaker, tell the President we are not making progress. We are digging graves to bury mothers and fathers and sons and daughters, all patriotic Americans, all of them sacrificed needlessly.

They marched off to war, and tens of thousands of Americans are coming home in coffins and on stretchers. The American people have had enough of this bloody, worthless war, but the ways of Washington are not as wise and as pragmatic as the will of the American people.

Today, we passed a weak-kneed piece of legislation that this President will cut off at the knees. The President will

emerge from his reality-proof bunker just long enough to veto the bill. He will make a speech and what will he say? My way or no way.

The stroke of the President's veto pen will be like a knife cutting away any hope of reason or sanity for ending this bloody, God-awful war.

The President has retreated to a bunker where he cannot hear the American people, the Iraqi people, our soldiers, military experts and world leaders who keep telling him that the Iraq War will never end until we end it by withdrawing our soldiers and demanding diplomacy.

The American people want their government to listen. The American people want this President to stop ordering soldiers into the crossfire of civil war. The American people want our soldiers home and out of harm's way.

I voted for this Iraq bill today, knowing it will never become law. But I voted for the Iraq bill today because the weight of a feather can sometimes support the resolve of a Nation.

This piece of legislation is the smallest step down the right road, the only road available to leaders who can truthfully assess the reality on the ground in Iraq and respond with reason.

Some will say we are sending a message with this bill, but I think differently.

I believe the President will be sending a message to the American people when he vetoes this bill, a bill so flexible that it could barely stand on its own. The President's veto message will be that he refuses to listen, refuses to change, refuses to work with Congress and rejects the will of the American people.

The President said America will still be at war in Iraq when he leaves office in January 2009. That ought to be America's worst fear. And the only way to overcome it is for the American people to demand that the Republicans vote with the Democrats to overturn any Presidential veto that perpetuates the war any longer. And if Republicans will not do it, then elect someone who will.

The American people have spoken in November and they have said, get out of Iraq. It is time for the President to stop talking and start listening. Bring our soldiers home and leave Iraq to the Iraqis.

THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I am really distressed after listening to all the debate today. I have not seen this House split like this in the 25 years that I have been here, and I am really concerned not only about the future of Iraq and our troops over there, but I am concerned about the future of this country.